From: Todd Little
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/13/01 1:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I have recently read the proposed settlement between the Department
of Justice and Microsoft. As a software developer for the last
25 years, I can find nothing in the form of a remedy in the proposed
settlement. At best the settlement curtails Microsoft's past
monopolistic behaviors, but does nothing to punish Microsoft for
its past antitrust violations.

It would appear that someone convinced the DoJ that requiring
Microsoft to end its previous monopolistic behaviors and
publish specifications about its middleware is going to somehow
foster reasonable competition. Instead, what I see is that
Microsoft will be free to use its position as a monopoly on
middleware to further its control on the middleware market.
Their latest attempt is to try and limit the ability of Java
to compete with their products by not shipping support for
Java in their operating systems. Thus, it will be necessary
for an OEM, manufacturer, or the end user to now explicitly
load Java support. This is just but one small step Microsoft
will take with its monopoly to try and prevent technologies
like Java from competing with Microsoft's proprietary middleware
technology.

With the terms of the proposed settlement, Microsoft has little
reason to foster competition and will use its position as a
monopoly on middleware to expand its middleware into other
areas. Their .NET initiative is exactly that.

So I ask, "What exactly is the Department of Justice doing
to end Microsoft's monopoly? How does the Department of
Justice reasonably expect Microsoft's competition to
compete against a monopoly that has not been curbed in
the slightest?"

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